

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A diminishing returns bingo game resulting in a controllable disadvantage by an operator of the bingo game to a plurality of players, comprising in combination: ~~a random number generator for randomly generating~~ a plurality of randomly generated bingo cards, each of the bingo cards comprising a plurality of bingo numbers wherein ~~to permit~~ each one of the plurality of players ~~[[to]]~~ pre-select at least one of said ~~[[a]]~~ plurality of ~~player~~ randomly generated bingo cards and ~~to permit~~ each one of the plurality of players ~~[[to]]~~ pre-select at least one of a plurality of player patterns comprising a quantity of bingo numbers of ~~for each one of said~~ at least one of a plurality of ~~pre-selected player~~ bingo cards pre-selected by each one of the plurality of players; and ~~said random number generator for a plurality of randomly generated~~ generating every bingo numbers of the bingo game ~~to match to~~ wherein, as each of said plurality of pre-selected player patterns ~~so that is~~ matched to a quantity of said plurality of randomly generated bingo numbers, each of the plurality of players realize at least one of a plurality of diminishing awards as the quantity of said plurality of randomly generated bingo numbers ~~drawn by the random number generator~~ increases.

2. (Currently Amended) The diminishing returns bingo game resulting in a controllable disadvantage by an operator of the bingo game to a plurality of players according to Claim 1 ~~wherein said controllable disadvantage comprises~~ further comprising at least one of a plurality of payout tables predetermined by the operator of the bingo game so that the plurality of awards to the plurality of players diminishes as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers increases during the bingo game.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) A diminishing returns bingo game, comprising in combination: means for randomly generating a plurality of bingo cards, each of the bingo cards comprising a plurality of bingo numbers wherein ~~to permit~~ at least one player of the bingo game ~~[[to]] pre-selects~~ at least one ~~player~~ bingo card of said plurality of randomly generated bingo cards and ~~to permit~~ said at least one player ~~[[to]] pre-selects~~ at least one player pattern comprising a quantity of bingo numbers of ~~for~~ said at least one player bingo card pre-selected by said at least one player; and means for randomly generating ~~every~~ a plurality of bingo numbers of the bingo game ~~to match to wherein, as~~ said at least one player pattern ~~so that is~~ matched to a quantity of said plurality of randomly generated bingo numbers said at least one player realizes at least one of a plurality of diminishing awards as the quantity of said plurality of randomly generated bingo numbers of the bingo game increases ~~resulting in a controllable disadvantage predetermined by an operator of the bingo game.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 4 wherein said means for randomly generating a plurality of bingo cards and said means for randomly generating every said plurality of bingo numbers of the bingo game comprises a random number generator ~~of a gaming machine~~.
6. (Currently Amended) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 5 ~~wherein said controllable disadvantage comprises~~ further comprising at least one of a plurality of payout tables predetermined by the operator of the bingo game so that ~~the plurality of awards to~~ said at least one player receives a diminishing payout from at least one of said plurality of payout tables ~~diminishes~~ as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers of the bingo game ~~drawn by the random number generator~~ increases during the bingo game.

Claims 7-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 4 wherein each one of said plurality of randomly generated bingo cards comprises an array having a plurality of spaces selectively filled with each one of a plurality of numbers, ~~the operator of the bingo game selecting a predetermined plurality of winning patterns for said plurality of bingo cards and every one of the randomly generated bingo numbers of the bingo game compared to each one of said plurality of numbers of said at least one player bingo card so that said plurality of predetermined winning patterns of said plurality of bingo eventually match to said at least one player pattern.~~

Claims 12-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for offering a diminished returns bingo game comprising the steps of:
- randomly generating a plurality of bingo cards, each of the bingo cards comprising a plurality of bingo numbers;
 - ~~to permit at least one player of the bingo game to pre-selecting~~ at least one player bingo card of said plurality of bingo cards by at least one player of the bingo game;
 - ~~and to permit said at least one player to pre-selecting~~ at least one player pattern comprising a quantity of bingo numbers of ~~for~~ said at least one pre-selected player bingo card by said at least one player of the bingo game; and
 - randomly generating ~~every~~ a plurality of bingo numbers of the bingo game to match to said at least one player pattern ~~resulting in a controllable disadvantage predetermined by the operator of the bingo game~~ so that said at least one player realizes a plurality of diminishing awards as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers of the bingo game increases.
19. (Currently Amended) The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 18 further comprising the step of:
- providing a random number generator ~~of a gaming machine for~~ to randomly ~~generating a~~ generate said plurality of bingo cards and ~~for~~ to randomly ~~generating every~~ generate said plurality of bingo numbers of the bingo game.

20. (Currently Amended) The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 18 further comprising the ~~steps~~ step of:

~~providing a controllable disadvantage comprising a plurality of payout tables predetermined by an the operator of the bingo game so that the plurality of awards to said at least one player diminishes as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers of the bingo game increases during the bingo game; and~~

~~selectively assigning by the operator of the bingo game a different payout table for each one of the plurality of payout tables.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 18 further comprising the steps of:

making at least one wager by said at least one player prior to playing the bingo game to obtain at least one player bingo card of said plurality of bingo cards;

selectively electing by said at least one player at least one alternative player bingo card from said plurality of bingo cards to replace said at least one player bingo card if said at least one player is dissatisfied with said at least one player bingo card of said plurality of randomly generated bingo cards; ~~and~~

permitting said at least one player to select at least one player pattern of said at least one player bingo card of the bingo game; and

permitting said at least one player to select at least one alternative player pattern of said at least one alternative player bingo card ~~after making said at least one wager~~ if said at least one player is dissatisfied with said at least one player bingo card of said plurality of bingo cards.

22. (Currently Amended) The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 21 further comprising the steps of:
making at least one additional wager by said at least one player;
and for

selecting at least one additional player pattern of said at least one player bingo card by said at least one player ~~prior to play of the bingo game and~~ after making said at least one wager, said at least one additional wager independent of any other wager made for said at least one player pattern to ~~permitting~~ said at least one player to achieve more than one award in the bingo game.

23. (Currently Amended) The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 18 further comprising the steps of:
- providing each one of said plurality of bingo cards comprises an array having a plurality of spaces selectively filled with each one of a plurality of numbers;
 - selecting a predetermined plurality of winning patterns by the operator of the bingo game for said plurality of bingo cards;
 - comparing each ~~every~~ one of the randomly generated bingo numbers of the bingo game to each one of said quantity ~~plurality~~ of bingo numbers of said at least one player bingo card, ~~so that~~ said plurality of predetermined winning patterns of said plurality of bingo cards eventually matching to said at least one player pattern; and
 - providing the plurality of awards to said at least one player of the bingo game is determined by the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers of the bingo game required to match said at least one player pattern to said plurality of predetermined winning patterns for said plurality of bingo cards; ~~and~~
 - ~~generating random bingo numbers of the bingo game until said at least one player pattern for said at least one player bingo card corresponds to the randomly generated numbers of a random number generator so that said at least one player eventually achieves a match to said plurality of predetermined winning patterns of said plurality of bingo cards achieving a diminishing award for said at least one player pattern as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers drawn by the random number generator increases during the bingo game.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 20 further comprising the step of:
~~increasing providing~~ the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers ~~drawn by a random number generator needed to match said at least one player pattern for to result in at least one~~ an award to said at least one player ~~from is increased in the plurality of payout pay-out tables predetermined by the operator of the bingo game~~ so that said at least one player achieves a higher hit frequency while maintaining a the controllable disadvantage predetermined by the operator of the bingo game.
25. (Currently Amended) The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 18 further comprising the steps of:
~~providing said at least one player achieves~~ achieving a higher hit frequency for the plurality of awards by said at least one player when ~~said at least one player increases the quantity of said at least one player pattern of said at least one player bingo card of the bingo game selected by said at least one player on at least one player bingo card is~~ increased; and
decreasing the rate of randomly generating bingo numbers as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers increases so as to cause greater suspense to said at least one player during the play of the bingo game.
26. (New) The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 20 further comprising the step of: adjusting the quantity of awards of said plurality of diminishing awards of at least one payout table of the plurality payout tables based on a desired level of profitability.

27. (New) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 4 further comprising a plurality of predetermined winning patterns of said bingo game, said at least one player pattern eventually matching to at least one of said plurality of predetermined winning patterns.